

Lisbon July 7<sup>th</sup> 1764

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The great Desire of Compleating a just and Amicable Settlement of my Accounts with the Province, Occasion'd my setting out from England for Boston without waiting longer to recover a better State of health, the Ship proving leaky upon the Passage — was Oblig'd to put in here, were to my great disappointment there is no Place in which I can with Safety to my Health, proceed further upon my Intended Voyage. Having pursuant to the Order of the Hon<sup>le</sup> House of Representatives received a Copy of the Reports of their Committee — containing Divers Objections to my general Account formerly Transmitted, and by my letters sent by Capt. Davenport given I apprehend Effectual Answers to those Objections, I now Pray the Hon<sup>le</sup> Court. will be pleas'd as soon as conveniently may be, in case the same has not been done already, to take the Matter into their Just and Equitable Consideration, and grant what is due to me, the Unsettled State of my Affairs prevents the Proper & Desirable disposal of my self in point of Profit or Loss, my continued regard for the wellfair of the Province to which I have Sacrific'd all Interest has laid difficulties in the way of my Advances, and conscious of my Unshaken Fidelity to it on the severest Trials, I flatter my self, that I shall receive ample Justice from the Hon<sup>le</sup> Court, — You may remember that in the Year 1764 a Bill was by the Ministry Brought into the House 1748

M<sup>o</sup> Secretary Oliver



of Commons containing certain Clauses for enforcing the  
Kings Orders and Instructions through out the Colonies (that is  
in other words, to make all the Kings Orders without limitation  
or Qualification. Laws to the Colonies (within an hour or two  
after my Petition against this Bill was read in the House  
a Noble Lord then a Member of the House and of the Board  
of Trade and who was particularly concerned in framing  
and conducting this Bill, came to me and said they  
should drop the Clauses before mentioned / some short time  
before, but after the Bill was brought in, I observed to the  
same Noble Lord, that this was laying the Ax to the Root  
whereupon he answered (If you think so, I do as you think fits  
this Proceeding with the Circumstances attending it, fully  
convinced me that a Resolute Design was form'd for  
governing the Colonies in a manner Inconsistent with  
their rights & Liberties, and that the same was only —  
postpon'd in stead of being wholly given up — for which  
reason I have at all times since, when Leisure & Health  
would permit used my best Endeavours thoroughly to examine  
and understand the Rights of the Province so as to be able  
upon Occasion Effectually to defend them against all Oppression  
— The Measures lately taken by the Ministry for raising a  
Revenue upon the Colonies for certain Purposes, have given me  
the greatest concern, the Journals Court I doubt not have rec'd  
particular Intelligence herein, never the less, it may not be amiss  
to observe that there was no Petition in behalf of any of the  
Colonies against the Bill lately enacted read and considered  
either in the House of Commons or House of Lords, and that  
some time before my departure, one of the Upper Commons of the  
House of Commons inform'd me, there were near sixty Resolutions  
drawn and prepared to be pass'd by the House in order to  
impose a Stamp Duty on the like Number of Articles, but in  
further Consideration, by Direction of a Principle Minister, they  
were laid aside for the Present — whereupon the Resolution —  
was



passed that it may be proper to impose a Stamp duty upon  
the Colonies, and it is certain that since the session was  
concluded special engine has been made for that purpose  
It is needless to set forth how nearly these measures affect  
the Present and future prosperity of the Province or to observe  
that the best Rule of Prudence & Police requires that  
Prejudicial designs should be withstood to the utmost, in  
their Beginnings, and notwithstanding the Unkind Usage that  
I have rec'd from former General Courts, before my departure  
from England, I resolv'd, that in case the Present Court  
should, after making a just and reasonable settlement with  
me respecting past services, propose my Undertaking to defend  
the Rights and Interest of the Province upon this great occasion  
in a manner consistent with my Character, which the good  
of the Service requires, I would undertake the arduous task  
desiring to continue no longer the Province Agent than the  
difficult and unfortunate state of its affairs continues —  
I now write in such a noise, hurry, & disagreeable state  
that Improprieties & Difficulties may with reason be expected  
and excused — but I cannot die in concluding with the  
sincerest wishes, <sup>that</sup> what ever measures the General Court  
may take at this critical juncture for the Preservation  
of the Rights and Interest of the Province may be attended with  
Success —

I am with great Respect for the  
Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Council —

W<sup>m</sup>

Your most obedient &  
most humble servant

W<sup>m</sup> O'Brien



Mr Bollen  
Lisbon Sep 17 64

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